

Karo/Echo Minutes Nov 13, 2017 - Marlene Keller

Attendees: Hal Grabske, Marian Glade, Jerry Michaels, Don Simon, Jamuel Starkey, Marlene Keller, Texx Woodworth, Jon Hammond, Kevin Janes

Numbers of agenda items are from the draft agenda:

9) Report on Communications during Napa/Sonoma wildfire disaster (This item was moved up to help B/C Janes get home after a long shift.)

We learned from Kevin's review that CERT and ham nets were apparently not needed for the main command wildfire response. The professionals did everything needed and did it well. CERT was used in Napa to setup evacuation centers, but this use was far from the incident areas.

Action: We need to think about that in what we tell all our residents to do in a wildfire, especially since CERT training on EQ disaster gives a 180 degree wrong answer for wildfire.

**3) An alerting system needs to be discussed whether by telephones, texting, or ?
And how do we activate?**

Re the alerting systems:

Kevin indicated that Fire Departments rely on their Police Departments to oversee evacuations. Since in both wildfires and earthquakes, no one or two routes is certain, everyone should know more than one route out of their neighborhood. Kevin mentioned that Nixle is a free text message app that people can sign up for that provides public safety notices. The ECPD operates the community warning system consisting of sirens and PD driving through neighborhoods to order mandatory evacuations. Reverse 911 was mentioned, but this requires a landline.

Action: We and CERT should let people know about the multiple alert systems and how to use them.

Re activation:

There are two activation systems involved - not one.

First - re the CERT Area activation

There are at a minimum 2 very different CERT activation modes:

1) the Area-wide activation where the entire area activates around a central point and then functions outward from there. This is likely how EC9 and EC7 will assemble and activate.

2) The other model is activation starting at the block level and then moving up to the area level. This is likely how EC2 and K6 will assemble and activate.

Both modes can produce CERT situational information - and both need the EmComm network to be ready to roll.

Second - re the EMComm net standup:

The second activation is the EmComm net standup- which doesn't happen until it's called for - and this is a pure radio activation. And when and how we do this needs to be worked through, planned and drilled (and recruited).

The important takeaway here is we need to have an EmComm system that works for both types - and that may be pretty straightforward - but we need to talk it through.

1) The Adoption of a clear and concise KARO/ECHO mission statement.

We decided to keep the mission statement brief:

To provide skilled radio operators who can deliver effective radio communications for the Kensington and El Cerrito communities.

2)The adoption of an organizational structure in order to move along our mission in a focused, efficient, and participatory manner. Should include a definition of what constitutes a voting member of KARO. This was tabled until the next meeting so that Wayne can be present to discuss.

4) Mapping - There is a need to coordinate the FRS channels so that adjacent areas do not interfere with each other. This was tabled until the next meeting.

5) Access and locations of KARO/ECHO radios and antennas during a disaster

The KARO part of KE was well represented - and actually has pretty good contact with the FD with ham stations in place and an activation plan-who goes where- and with most of the AC's. We have 4 or 5 ham stations which we maintain and have used in a drill.

The ECHO part of KE is starting to come alive - with Don, Jamuel, Wayne and Marlene having roles - the EC9 group is ham-active and is using a different approach for EmComm response – namely the probably use of in-place antennas and mobile rigs – in addition to existing stations that have been provided by the ECFD.

Action: Since we are looking at different modes of siting, equipping and operating our ham stations – in the CERT Areas and in the fire stations and EOC – this is a subject that should be looked at carefully by the KE members. We'll continue this in the next meetings.

Action: Kevin said he would participate in a tour of the EC station sites with EC AC folks (and other who are interested). Marlene will talk to EC Recreation Dept Director Chris Jones about the sites he controls (Senior Center and Tassajara) to determine tour access, Knox box status and plans to move the station at the current Senior Center to a new location (or locate it elsewhere, e.g. Arlington Clubhouse).

6) KARO-ECHO.NET Wiki Page report. What's on the site and how to access it. It is up and running and has a set of useful and relevant documents and maps for all of us to use. For access contact Wayne Coburn

7) Presentation of a proposed Operations Field Manual. *This was tabled until the next meeting.*

8) Training criteria/levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 (handouts and discussion). Four progressive levels of ability. *This was tabled until the next meeting.*